

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY WARSAW

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: TPHY, OVIP, PL

SUBJECT: VISIT OF ASTRONAUT KAROL BOBKO

REF: WARSAW 1311

1. ASTRONAUT KAROL J. "BO" BOBKO, LT.COL., USAF, GRANDSON
OF PIOTR BOBKO, BORN JUNE 29, 1887 AND DIED MARCH 4, 1957.
SCRIPT RECORD OF GRANDFATHER'S BIRTH APPEARS TO READ:

WIES (GRABOWIEC), POCTA (BAWORUW), POWIAT (TARNOPOL),
POLAND. IN SOUTHEAST AREA, POSSIBLY NOW PART OF USSR.

2. BOBKO MUST REMAIN IN HOUSTON FOR LAUNCH AND RE-ENTRY
SIMULATIONS APRIL 8-9. HOPES TO OBTAIN APPROVAL FOR
ARRIVAL WARSAW APRIL 11 AT 12:55 PM VIA SAS. THIS COULD
SLIP BY ONE DAY DUE TO SIMULATIONS. WOULD EXPECT TO
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CONTINUE TO MOSCOW AT 1455 ON APRIL 15. AEROFLOT FLIGHT

NOT ACCEPTABLE FOR HIS USE.

3. BOBKO IS GRADUATE OF FIRST AIR FORCE ACADEMY CLASS
1959; HAS MA IN AEROSPACE ENGINEERING FROM UNIVERSITY

OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA. PREVIOUSLY TEST PILOT ASSIGNED
TO AIR FORCE MANNED ORBITING LABORATORY (SPACE STATION
PROGRAM) LATER CANCELLED. CREW MEMBER, GROUND MEDICAL
TESTS AND PREPARATIONS FOR SKY LAB. CURRENTLY SUPPORTS
PRIME AND BACK UP CREWS FOR APOLLO-SOYUZ AND VERY
KNOWLEDGEABLE ABOUT MISSION OPERATIONS.

4. FINAL APPROVAL FROM ASTRONAUT OFFICE, HOUSTON, IS
PENDING. SPECIAL PERMISSION REQUIRED IN VIEW OF HEAVY
WORK LOAD PRIOR TO FLIGHT. EXCEPTION TO RULE BANNING
NON-MISSION ACTIVITIES PRIOR TO FLIGHT EXPECTED BY
MARCH 28. WILL INFORM.

5. WOULD POST WISH TO PROVIDE FUNDS TO PERMIT BOBKO'S
WIFE TO ACCOMPANY?

6. BOBKO WILL REQUIRE COMPLETE BRIEFING BY POST PRIOR TO
PUBLIC APPEARANCES. WISHES TO BE FAMILAR WITH POLISH
SCIENTIFIC ACTIVITY AND OVERALL US-POLISH RELATIONS. INGERSOLL

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